

On behalf of Homefield Credit Union located at 86 Worcester Street in North Grafton, I am respectfully submitting this request asking that you consider granting Homefield Credit Union a Special Sign Permit for three separate sign structures. I have outlined the reasons behind the request for each individual sign (see below). Also included in this application packet you will find photographs identifying the location of each sign as well as the designer's rendering of each sign.

Special Sign Permit Request #1

The first Special Sign Permit request is for a sign to be permanently affixed to the South facing side of the Credit Union's building. The Town of Grafton's by-laws state that *secondary signs may be no more than 6 square feet in size*. Based on the size of the building, the location of the building in proximity to the street, and the overall geographic landscape, the existing size restrictions would render the sign unreadable by someone driving by the Credit Union. This proposed sign is a duplicate of the existing sign which is located on the front of the building; measuring 29.25" in height by 115" in length; and fabricated out of weather resistant acrylic letters, with attached studs for installation.

The need for this sign stems from the design of the Credit Union's parking lot and the access point for traffic heading North on Worcester Street. The entrance to the parking lot is a one way, single-lane while the exit, which is located at the opposite end of the parking lot, is a one way, with two exit lanes. Somebody approaching the Credit Union's parking lot cannot see the existing sign on the front of the building. There is a separate Homefield Credit Union sign structure closer to Worcester Street; however, this sign is further in from the street and lower height-wise than that of neighboring businesses. When a large vehicle parks near the sign or in the event of heavy snow, it becomes difficult to see the sign from a distance.

On several occasions, those looking to gain entrance to the parking lot have made a hard stop on Worcester Street to access the lot through the entrance. This has caused traffic issues when cars simultaneously attempt to exit the nearby Koopman's Plaza parking lot. We have also witnessed cars entering the Credit Union's parking lot via the exit upon missing the entrance, which has caused car accidents. The cars that have been witnessed entering through the exit were all travelling North.

Special Sign Permit Request #2

The second Special Sign Permit request is for the placement of a free standing sign in Homefield Credit Union's parking lot by the South facing side of the building. The purpose of this sign would be to direct traffic to the Credit Union's drive-up ATM, located on the North facing side of the building.

The Town of Grafton's by-laws limit the size of free standing signs to 2 square feet. We are requesting consideration for a 6 square foot (2' x 3') sign to be installed. This sign will complement the existing sign located in the rear of the building and will be fabricated out of metal and held by two side support posts. It will be installed in the landscaped area located on South facing side of the building. The public is not able to see the existing sign from the front or South facing side of the Credit Union's building.

In order to get to this ATM machine, one must enter the parking lot, drive around the right (South facing) side of the building to the back of the building and then turn into the far left of 4 available lanes on the North facing side of the building. The ATM juts out from the left side of the building (as you look from the street). On many occasions Credit Union employees have witnessed cars entering the parking lot and immediately turning left to head toward the ATM. It is not until they are driving the wrong way on a one-way lane that they realizing that the ATM is not accessible from this approach. The drivers need to back-up to the front parking lot where many of them will park their vehicle and walk to the drive-up ATM. This is particularly dangerous as there are 3 designated transaction lanes of traffic on the left side of the building (1 ATM lane; 2 drive-up transaction lanes) plus an additional exit lane. Vehicles traveling around the back of the parking lot to use the ATM often times are going too fast and the driver does not expect to see a pedestrian walking to or using the ATM machine. The safety of anyone coming in to the parking lot to use our exterior ATM is a key concern.

Special Sign Permit Request #3

The third Special Sign permit request is for the placement of 2 fixed light post banners attached to the light posts in the front of our building on Worcester St. The purpose again, is to drive traffic into our parking lot for business.

The Town of Grafton's by-laws generally prohibit the use of temporary and moving signs. We are requesting consideration of the placement of 2, 1.5' x 2' banners identifying our location to those driving by. The banners would be a nylon material and fixed permanently to the light posts in a way that would keep them from moving or causing any hazard to those driving by. The reasoning for the placement for these specific banners would be for the benefit of those traveling South on Worcester St. Because of how far back our building and free standing sign are placed compared to our neighbors, our business is all but blocked by a cluster of trees that boarder the North facing edge of our property. The banners affixed to the lamp posts closer to the street would be a way for the public to see where our building is located and allow them time to safely signal, slow and stop to make a left hand turn into our parking lot. Having to make a complete stop to turn for Southbound traffic is almost always a necessity due to the heavy flow of Northbound traffic and again, there have been multiple incidents of vehicles stopping quickly to enter our lot and then being rear-ended by someone behind them.